



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Memo

To: Superintendents, Business Managers, and Transportation Directors
From: Ray Mercial, Transportation Director
Date: July 28, 2008
Re: Basic Bus Bids and Maximum Depreciation

In accordance with Idaho Code 33-1006 and Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations, the State Department of Education recently solicited bids for Conventional and Transit FE basic school buses. The July 2008 basic bus low bid will be used to set maximum depreciation reimbursements for a six month period. SDE will solicit bids again in December to set maximum depreciation allowed for the following six months.

School districts will continue to independently bid buses in accordance with bidding requirements outlined in Idaho Code. Districts may bid for school buses using individual specifications or may bid using the state basic bus specifications. Idaho basic bus specifications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/>.

New school bus depreciation reimbursements will be limited to the state basic bus low bid plus any pre-approved safety options. The following table lists maximum depreciation allowed on district bus bids accepted between July 1 and December 31, 2008 and any district bus bids already accepted and not reported on FY08 depreciation. Districts will submit a copy of school board meeting minutes as documentation of the bid acceptance date.

Diesel	Actual Passenger Capacity (Lift buses based on rated capacity)					
	41-42	53-54	65-66	71-72	77-78	83-84
Conventional	\$75,300	\$76,632	\$77,224	\$78,374	\$78,473	N/A
Transit FE	\$83,455	\$84,615	\$85,502	\$85,800	\$86,330	\$87,230

In addition to the above listed maximum depreciation, the following safety options may be allowed as additional reimbursement on a pre-approval basis. Districts that need safety options beyond the basic bus, two-way radio, and single camera passenger surveillance system must submit a pre-approval request in advance of bidding the bus. Pre-approval requests should be submitted online via the System for Idaho School Transportation Reporting (SISTR). The following table reports the maximum reimbursement added to the basic bus for each safety option and the amount removed for non-reimbursable options.

Safety Options <u>Not</u> Requiring Pre-Approval	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Single camera passenger surveillance system	\$1,900	\$2,400	\$2,100
Two-way radio communication system	\$750	\$650	\$750
Safety Options <u>Requiring</u> Pre-Approval	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Air conditioning	\$8,800	\$10,000	\$6,000
Automatic chains	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$1,800
Diesel-fueled 45,000 BTU auxiliary heating system	\$2,500	\$5,257	\$2,500
Electromagnetic driveline retarder	\$6,500	\$9,200	N/A
Empty/passenger bus check system	\$150	STD	\$150
Front bumper-mounted student crossing arm	\$250	\$120	\$275
Heated entry steps	\$350	\$665	\$245
Pre-school age seating (C.E. White or equivalent) per seat in-lieu of standard passenger seat	\$750	\$812	\$550
Roof-mounted rear air deflector	\$400	\$458	\$375
Second stop arm – left side rear	\$250	\$424	\$255
Strobe light	\$200	\$131	\$125
Wheelchair lift package	\$3,900	\$5,855	\$6,100
Non-Reimbursable Options (not all-inclusive)	Blue Bird	International	Thomas
Dual camera passenger surveillance system	\$2,300	\$2,780	\$2,300
Fire block seating per seat in-lieu of standard seat	\$9.50	\$21.50	\$18
Tinted passenger window glass (28%)	\$500	\$743	\$200
White roof	\$170	\$732	\$562

Please contact SDE with any questions on the new basic bus bids or maximum depreciation. We are in the process of developing specifications for Type A and B basic school buses. In the meantime, maximums allowed for all other new buses will be based on the prior year average low bid price.